

A B S T R A C T

A METHOD OF MAKING A SANDWICH-TYPE COMPOSITE PANEL HAVING A HINGE, AND A PANEL OBTAINED BY PERFORMING SUCH A METHOD

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The invention relates to a method of making a composite panel (100) of sandwich structure and provided with a hinge (106), said panel comprising a stack made up of at least one first skin (101) made of a reinforced 10 thermoplastics material, of a cellular core (102) made of a thermoplastics material, and of a second skin (103) made of a thermoplastics material, in which method said panel (100) is formed by pressing said stack at a pressure lying in the range 10×10^5 Pa to 30×10^5 Pa, 15 the first and second skins (101, 103) being preheated to a softening temperature. The invention is characterized in that, after said panel has been formed, an incision is made at a determined place in said panel so as to cut through one (101) of the first and second skins (101, 20 103), and substantially through the entire thickness of the cellular core, while leaving the other skin (103) intact so that it forms, at said place, the hinge (106) between two portions (107, 108) of the incised panel (100).

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Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the 35 Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2, 38.2, and/or 48.3.